

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A walk aerator for punching a plurality of holes in the ground, which comprises:

(a) a frame supported for movement over the ground by a plurality of ~~wheels~~ rotatable ground engaging members that define a transverse wheelbase for the walk aerator;

(b) a handle assembly for allowing a walking operator to guide and steer the frame;

(c) ~~a coring head~~ an aerating mechanism carried on the frame, the ~~coring head~~ the aerating mechanism having a plurality of side-by-side tine assemblies that are vertically reciprocal for punching holes in the ground in a coring swath having a predetermined width; and

(d) wherein all of the rotatable ground engaging members of the frame are carried on the frame in advance of the tine assemblies taken with respect to a forward direction of motion of the frame, and wherein the transverse wheelbase is substantially equal to or less than the predetermined width of the coring swath.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The walk aerator of claim 1, wherein a pair of laterally spaced wheels are provided on the frame to define the wheelbase.

4. (original) The walk aerator of claim 3, wherein the pair of laterally spaced wheels are longitudinally offset from a third wheel, the pair of laterally spaced wheels and the third wheel being arranged in a tricycle configuration on the frame.

5. (original) The walk aerator of claim 4, wherein the third wheel is pivotally carried on the frame, and wherein the handle assembly is operatively coupled to the third wheel for steering the frame.

6 - 21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) An aerator, which comprises:

(a) a frame supported for rolling over the ground by a plurality of rotatable members, at least one of the rotatable members comprising a wheel that is steerable by pivoting the wheel about a steering axis;

(b) a steering control carried on the frame which ~~may be~~ is gripped and pivoted by ~~an~~ a walking operator to pivot the steerable wheel about the steering axis to steer the frame;

(c) a laterally extending array of coring tines carried on the frame for punching aeration holes in the ground and for leaving soil cores on top of the ground;

(d) wherein the operator when gripping the steering control is positioned relative to the coring tines such that the operator will not walk on any of the soil cores left on top of the ground to avoid crushing any of the soil cores left on the ground; and

(e) wherein the rotatable members are positioned on the frame ahead of the coring tines taken with respect to a forward direction of movement of the frame, wherein the rotatable members collectively provide a plurality of ground engaging

surfaces that engage the ground as the rotatable members roll over the ground, and wherein ~~lateral outermost edges of~~ the ground engaging surfaces of the rotatable members do not substantially laterally extend beyond lateral outermost edges of the array of coring tines, ~~to avoid having any of whereby~~ the rotatable members avoid rolling over any of the soil cores left on the ground.

23. (previously presented) The aerator of claim 22, wherein the steering control comprises a steering handle operatively coupled to the steerable wheel and extending forwardly past a front end of the frame, the steering handle being gripped and pivoted by an operator who walks on the ground in advance of the frame and in advance of the array of coring tines.

24. (previously presented) The aerator of claim 22, wherein the rotatable members further include a pair of wheels that are spaced fore and aft on the frame from the steerable wheel.

25. (previously presented) The aerator of claim 24, wherein the steerable wheel comprises a front wheel on a front end of the frame and the pair of wheels comprise a pair of rear wheels on a rear end of the frame.

26 - 27. (canceled)